GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:833
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to reorient the new policy for promoting and developing science and technology and research and arrest increasing volume of brain drain from the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and observations made by the expert committee in this regard; and

(c) the details of on-going new schemes formulated for development and promotion of applied science, technology and research in various states particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SING RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Government has been taking various steps from time to time to arrest the outflow as also to attract scientists and technologists settled abroad to return to India. Some of the initiatives taken in this regard are :

- Setting up of more centers of excellence / advanced studies in universities and academic institutions.

- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

- Manpower development training / retraining programmes through associateships/ fellowships / courses.

- Provisions for temporary placement of Scientists and Technocrats under the scheme of Scientist Pool.

- Invitation to distinguished persons of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignment to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.

- Special initiatives for assisting non-resident Indians for setting up of industrial units in this country.

- Provisions of facilities for import of equipment for professional returning from abroad.

- R&D projects for Young Scientists.

- BOYSCAST Fellowships for visiting international laboratories and institutions.

- Swarnajayanti Fellowships.

- Contact Programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up

R&D as a career.

- Scientists are given financial assistance to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad.

(c) A number of programmes / schemes are supported by various Central Ministries / Departments by funding Research and Development (R&D) projects. According to available official statistics, the number of R&D projects funded during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-08 in various states is 1716, 1795 and 1780 respectively. It includes 207, 166 and 172 R&D projects supported in Maharashtra during the respective years.